want a systematic scheme of irrigation works to be worked and carried out in the course of the next ten or twelve years. It is high time that the Department should not invest any large amounts in cement and concrete for buildings, either for schools or for hospitals, etc., at Ernakulam.

Industries.

Sir, I conclude with a few words as regards the present policy of the Government as regards *Industrial Improvement*. There is no policy of construction adopted by the Government in this line. It is one of destruction. What has become of the Tanneries? And what is the fate of the Potteries? Why are they not allowed to work properly? Why can't the Government get expert opinion in the matter of successfully working these and other similar undertakings? The Government cannot afford to shirk responsibility in this respect. The future prosperity of the State must depend on the development of industrial resources of the State. Hydro-Electric schemes, that have been thought out before, have to be worked out. The Government should take a bold step in these directions, if it cares for the material prosperity of its subjects. The present Government does not seem to be bold enough to take a venture in this respect. This policy of inactivity has certainly to be changed.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I have to thank the Finance Member and through him the Government for presenting to us a surplus budget.

Sir, whatever the Political Economists may say to the contrary, the sight of a surplus budget is refreshing to one's mind, regardless of the fact that it is built on unstable ground. We cannot depend upon this interest, for ere long, the capital will have to be utilised. We cannot have the income from Land-Revenue—Capital also for long. Therefore, to keep on our budget a surplus one, we will have to look for fresh fields and pastures new. The lands are heavily assessed. The incidence of taxation here per head is heavier than in those of our Sister States. The lands cannot be burdened with another tax. The prohibition question is an international one. It is destined to prevail at one time or other. The income from that source is also destined to dwindle, if not to nothing, to a paltry sum. We are not budgetting for productive industries. We are not entering on irrigation projects, which would be sure sources of income. Hence, I repeat this year also that we are on unstable ground. The only new imposition possible is the income-tax-a percentage of the profits from non-agricultural incomes. This has been demanded for the last two years. It was to find ways and means to make both ends meet with the sure sources of income we have that the Finance Committee was appointed as a result of the

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insistence of the Legislative Council on retrenchment. The terms of reference were very wide, and the Committee had taken great pains to arrive at the conclusions contained in the report. But the Committee, of which the Financial Member was not stinting in praise, of which we expected much, went up like a rocket, and came down like a stick.

There was a unanimous opinion that the administration was top-heavy, and that certain Departments were not functioning well. A careful perusal of the report has sorely disappointed me to find that the Committee have completely ignored the consideration of retrenchment, except in the abolition of a clerkship here and a peon's place there, even though the majority of non-official opinion they collected was for the reduction of the salaries. If the non-official opinion is so worthless as can thus be brushed aside with scant courtesy, why did they approach for such opinion? They would have gone on in their own way. They have, by their suggestion to raise the status of the Comptroller of Accounts and the Secretary to the Diwan by increasing their emoluments, sought to make the top heavier. They have made much of the saving clause "without impairing the efficiency of the administration" in the terms of reference, and have propounded the theory that the salaries should be sufficiently liberal to attract the right type of men for the various offices. Unless their idea is to import outsiders straight away as Heads of Departments or officers, unless there is a feeling that the present Heads are not up to the mark, it is a large order even for a Committee, composed of the pick of the intelligentsia of the State, to fix such high pay to raise the status of officers. Perhaps the status of the Comptroller will not be affected, if he is placed under the Diwan Peishkar on equal pay with him. The present Heads of Departments are by common consent considered to be fit for their work. They did not all at once step into their present places. They have reached these positions by dint of honest labour. They did not enter service with the thought that they would certainly attain these positions, and that there would then be appointed a Retrenchment Committee, whch would, regardless of the general trend of public opinion, recommend higher pay to them. It is admitted on all hands that they are all above board in point of character. It is the acquisition of such men that we should aim at. Further, since we stand for 'Cochin for Cochinites', the rising generation will be patriotic enough to serve their country for country's sake, if only they are provided with enough to live a decent life. Hence any proposal to fix the pay of the Heads of Departments above six hundred rupees per

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mensem should, considering our financial position and the too many calls on it, be accepted with great circumspection. Take into service intelligent, energetic young men alone, get them trained in the services, and let their promotions at each stage be according to an efficiency bar, then you will have created first-rate men to be your Heads of Departments or officers. It is by ignoring efficiency at the time of appointments and promotions that necessity has arisen for additional hands. 'That our officers are paid considerably less than in the British service for doing the work of the same kind and volume' will not stand scrutiny, if we only think that our State is no bigger than some of the taluks in Malabar. Regarding the volume of work, our officers are in a covetous position ; e. g., the Magistrate of Pollachi, who is in the Rs. 150-200 grade, has as many cases in one month as the Chittur Magistrate has in a year. He has also revenue work besides. There are persons in the service who do the same quality of work but of greater volume, but they are neither Heads of Departments nor of offices. Consider for instance the case of the poorly paid clerks of the Registration Department. Their compeers in British have only to copy six pages a day, and get from Rs. 35 to 60, and they can go home with the thought that no work is left behind, whereas here these people will get Rs. 20-30. They have to work extra hours every day. The work will be pending heavy on them and they should have to work on Sundays.

The recruitment to the Judicial line should invariably be from the Bar. The appointments should be in the hands of the Chief Court. Only those, who have half a dozen years' service at the Bar, and who have had appearances before a Bench, should be appointed. No birth, communal or racial qualification, should have precedence. Let the best come up, whatever caste, creed or colour he may be in.

There is a wave of tragic symphony pervading all that is said in the Report about the low-paid servants. It is admitted that the claims of the low-paid servants for a living wage have not received the attention, that they obviously deserve. Their claims were repeatedly placed before the House by all the Members of the last Legislative Council. Two of the non-officials of the Committee, Messrs. Krishna Menon and Ouseph, who had been clamouring for the reduction of the pay of the Heads of Departments, who had proclaimed in season and out of season that the administration was top-heavy, who had always upheld the cause of the low-paid servants, and who had denounced the Government for its heartlessness, seem to have entered into friendly pourparlers with the officials, and have whispered that "it is not right that Departmental Heads should

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get the same pay as the Puisne Judges", and have agreed to the report, which has given a set of low paid servants nine rupees per mensem—a living wage indeed! Masapadi in the Revenue and Educational Departments, nine rupees, Gardeners in the Educational Department Rs. 7.

The Finance Member had in his speech on the budget of 1102 said "that some arrangement was under consideration" regarding the Taluk Sanitary Inspector. We have not yet had the benefit of the considered opinion. The proposal of the Committee to retain the present staff of Sanitary Inspectors under the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer in the face of the opinion of the majority that they hold sincere posts with no work savours of strong stimulent. The spirit that we see pervading the present administration is seen all along the report.

The Committee finds that the work of the Public Works Department has increased considerably in recent years. Insufficient management of the irrigation Department, especially of Chittur, want of clear understanding of irrigation necessities, want of proper control over the subordinates and such like qualities will make the work of the Department considerable, surely this Department at present has much work. Very little is spent on irrigation of late. Much is spent on buildings. The roads have never been so bad in Cochin State as now. The officers are indifferent to the complaints of the public. As a result of incessant representation to the Diwan and the Chief Engineer, they came to recognise that something should be done to lessen the sufferings of those, who had to ford the Korayar river at Eruthempathy in Chittur Taluk, and they, in spite of my remonstrance, introduced ferry system, which did not work at all, and which resulted in the loss of the amount spent on it. The matter was again brought to the notice of the Diwan, and we expected that a bridge would be sanctioned this year. There is nothing in the budget. I leave you to judge of the intrepidity of the Government in not alleviating the sufferings of those committed to their care.

The dictum that the contribution to the Municipalities may be fixed with reference to their necessities is wholesome. But, before applying the dictum, you must see that all the other Municipalities are placed in the same position as the Municipal administration found in Trichur and Ernakulam. Until then those Municipalities require more help, and they ought in decency to be helped. But the Government have budgetted Rs. 7,000, for Ernakulam, apart from the abnormal amount allotted for its water works, and Trichur and Chittur get Rs. 2,000 only. The Government, being far away from the place, perhaps, do not know the necessities of Chittur.

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The thanks of the public are due to the Committee for the recommendation to open demonstration farms. I cannot agree with them when they say that the Department was organised on too ambitious lines. We want knowledge and demonstration,—knowledge of the nature of the soil and the manures, etc., suited for it. This can be had only by experiments conducted in a laboratory. The soil of one taluk will be quite different from the soil of another. For that matter there will be many kinds of soil in a village—nay in a farm. Each soil should be treated separately. The laboratory should at once be replenished, and experiments begun. It is on the result of these experiments that demonstration should be based. More than 80% of our population are engaged in agriculture. We spent about 1·3 per cent only of our revenue on this basic industry. (Japan spends 50 million yens, 7½ crores of rupees per annum.) Every endeavour should be made to improve the economic condition of the agriculturist. Only 30% of the population of the United States are engaged in agriculture. They spend only 6 as. per acre of cultivated area which we also spend, but they carry agricultural knowledge to the very doors of the ryots in trains called "Yellow Trains", "consisting of from 70 to 80 sections dealing with wheat, oats, cattle, domestic science, improved seeds and implements, &c." Madras has under contemplation, the idea has materialised since, to run agricultural buses which is decidedly an improvement on 'Yellow Trains' inasmuch as the buses will literally go to the very doors of the agriculturists. Madras, spending only 8 pies per head of population and 9 pies per acre of cultivated area, much less than what we spend (1 a. 6 p. per head of population and 6 as. per acre of cultivated area) think of running agricultural buses, why cannot we do the same? We can only say the Superintendent should be relieved of the Panchayat Department thrust upon him. As it is, both the Departments suffer. Very large amounts budgetted for water supply, communications, etc., have been allowed to lapse. His long-talked-of, the comprehensive scheme for Ayurveda, even though it is more than three years since its inception, has not seen the light of day. Therefore, free him from the Panchayats. Let him think that he is the food-giver, and that in him lies the salvation of the agriculturist class. Then what with the opening of demonstration farms and what with the introduction of agricultural buses, he will have enough of work for both his hands. The Financial Committee have not considered the disadvantages of a set of poor-paid officials such as Pandits, Drawing Masters and other specialists, Vaccinators, etc., who have no other source of income than the poor pay they get. When it is highly talked of that every servant should have a

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living wage, is it not necessary to see that this class of officials, when they retire, should have at least Rs. 15 per mensem for them and their family to live upon? The Director of Public Instruction is a very big family man (laughter). He is afraid that, if he pleaded for the cause of these struggling infants of his, he will have to ask for an amount, which would considerably increase his already big demand. But their condition can be alleviated a little by adopting a time-scale in the pay the Committee has allotted to them (Rs.20—50). Equally pathetic is the case of Vaccinators. The Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer is fully engrossed by the wants of his over-grown child, the General Hospital, which is always nearest to him. There are two sets of Vaccinators, one on Rs. 15—20 and the other on Rs. 20—25. As at present stands, the last grade will have to retire on Rs.20 alone. How are they to get on with their families on a monthly income of Rs. 10? Their case also should be one of time-scale on Rs. 15 to 25.

The policy of the Government has been to help the town at the expense of the rural area. The major portion of the revenue is collected from the villages. It is only reasonable that a tangible proportion of it should be spent for rural reconstruction. It is the basement on which the edifice of Government stands. If the foundation is not strong, if it is rotty, the whole house will one day fall down like a pack of cards. Therefore, it is highly essential that sanitation and agriculture should have first preference. For agriculture the real want is irrigation facilities. Allot a portion of the accumulated surplus for irrigation and sanitation and you will have done a great deal for rural reconstruction, for the uplift of the masses, and hence for the stability of the Government.

I conclude, Sir, with a request to kindly convey the loyal felicitation and the humble homage of my constituents and myself to His Highness our beloved Maharaja — May His Highness Live Long.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I take this opportunity of endorsing every word of what the Hon'ble Member for Vellarappilli has just said in connection with the relation that should subsist between the nominated and elected Members of this Legislative Council on the one hand, and the Government on the other. I was very glad to find that the Finance Member referred yesterday to the results, satisfactory according to him, that have already been obtained by the harmonious relationship, that existed and exists between these two sections. I do not want to gainsay that I am sure that, if we extend to each other, one section to the other, better co-operation and understanding, the

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results are bound to be very much better and out of all proportions, to the little sacrifices which we may have to make. I would say that it would be very much better to work the clerks and other employees of a particular Department out of which information is sought and to collect that information and kindly hand it over to the Member who asks for it than to give broadcast references to various issues of the Gazette that may or may not exist in the Press or in the library of the Member concerned and may even not be available for sale at all. Giving that sort of reference in answer to questions will not result in harmonious relations.

I conclude this part of my address by saying that objections to our questions (unless those objections are valid and vital) should not be raised. We are here sent by the people, who are being governed by the Government, to plead for them and redress their grievances; to point out their wants and their conditions. When we ask for questions in this House, unless it is clear to the Government that those questions are put in a frivolous or malicious manner, the Government ought to go a great way in meeting us and answering us. We are not asking questions merely for the purpose of asking questions. We are asking questions to get information, to place facts before the Government, and to get answers in an understandable manner, if I may say so, in an ungrudging manner. Again, Sir, if this House brings an urgent adjournment motion, I hope there may never be occasion for it, I say, that is not an occasion for talking that motion out. I am only speaking on principle. I was surprised to find that at least one urgent motion was literally talked out in this House, and that in connection with a matter, which the elected Members considered vital. That is the way of getting the confidence of the elected Members! Again, Sir, if a resolution of this House or if a cut is passed, no Department should be made to work round the resolution or round that cut. Ingenious men can often work round those things. It is the spirit of those resolutions that should be considered, and no financial jugglery should be attempted. Let me now pass on to the budget.

I was glad to note, yesterday, the Finance Member making reference to the happy results obtained from association of peoples' representatives with the officers of the Government. Better results would follow with better co-operation by Government. Once again in its short life of three years, this House is triumphantly confronted with a surplus budget. The anticipated surplus, as shown in the estimates, is, no doubt, only about a lakh of rupees. But it is seen that a little camouflage

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has been employed in connection with the manipulation of the figures. At least two items of receipts 'Stamps' and 'Cutoms' have been, it appears to me, grossly under-estimated. On the expenditure side, the two lakhs, budgetted under 'Miscellaneous' is really not expenditure that will surely have to be incurred, but a mere possibility of expenditure. The same method of over-caution is found on various other heads, both of expenditure and receipts. But I do not for a moment want to criticise caution and thrift. Nor do I ignore the fact that a comfortable bank balance is generally very desirable. All that I mean to say is that a bank balance can be purchased at too great a price. A party, though steeped in debt, can, if he has an income, accumulate for a little while and create an apparent bank balance; but the moment his creditors start taking action, his disillusionment begins. Unpaid creditors are often very insistant and their operations far from pleasant to the debtor. Our Government has recently been indulging in accumulating peoples' moneys, by consistently ignoring many of the legitimate and urgent demands both of the public and of the services. The lot of the scantily paid and all but starving underdog is steadily ignored, and he is left to shift for himself, which, in the struggle for existence, he often does by preying on the public, he is intended to serve. Long-standing and vitally important public demands and grievances are often given the go-bye, because, if they are heeded to, the surplus and accumulations would be less. Demands for better and more roads; for extension of sanitation and medical service, particularly in the rural areas; for larger facilities of irrigation and convenience for the agriculturists generally; for long-promised redresses to the silently suffering and down trodden backward classes; for a system of old age endowment for the indigent decrepit and generally for a solution of the beggar problem—all these and more, pressing and urgent though they be, are either consistently ignored or sparsely dealt with. That our Government has recognised the existence of many of these needs is clear from their conduct in making some little step-motherly provision towards meeting them. These needs should be seriously considered and responded to rather than hoard up the moneys required for their solution. In every progressive country, accumulated funds or surplus revenues are invariably utilised for the bettering of the condition of the people, either by the execution of beneficient public utilities or, in cases where there is a super-abundance of money, for the remission of taxation. Our Government, on the other hand, devotes their surpluses for very different purposes. Foreign or exotic banks get a good portion, for the swelling of their coffers, and

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the balance is locked up in the treasuries for, I suppose, the edification of the Heads of the Administration, who, in the language of the poet, may 'visit the hoard and count and recount it over'. Nor would it justify such hoarding to say that capital productive works involving large outlays are imminent. Every modern Government meets expenses on such productive works by loans, which will be repaid from the profits of those undertakings. If such works will not pay their way, they simply need not and should not be undertaken. *Starving the present generation for the fancied benefit of a future one is neither economic nor fair.* I am not running down thrift, but miserliness is thrift carried to a vice.

Turning now to the various heads of demands, one is again confronted with a policy of drift and shiftlessness. Take for instance, the Judicial Administration. I remember, when I was a school boy and for some time after, Cochin was famous for the integrity and efficiency of its judicial services. A number of efficient and far-seeing administrators had insisted on purging the services of all undesirable elements. The corrupt and the inefficient had been hounded out of the services and public confidence had been restored. Unfortunately, that policy was not rigorously followed by succeeding administrators. A period of drift in the line of least resistance followed, and dry rot has set in. The lesser judiciary of the State, with a few good exceptions, is generally inefficient, and the criminal section of it is, I am ashamed to say, tainted and debased to a considerable extent by corruption. What a climb down indeed! Sir, I may assure you that I am not saying this in a spirit of frivolity or light-heartedness. I am very sorry to be obliged to run down the administration of justice in our State, an administration which was but a few years ago the subject matter of our especial pride. I am saying this from a sense of responsibility to my constituents and to the public of the State and above all from the intense and jealous interest I take in the good name of His Highness, our gracious and benevolent Maharaja, and that of his administration. I am sure His Highness would, with an iron hand put down this sort of thing, if only those, whom he has entrusted with the work of supervising and scrutinising the work of the public servants, would bring such matters to his kind notice. I was referring to the corruption prevailing in the lesser judiciary. May I refer here in particular to the miserable condition of the criminal administration?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I point to your attention, Sir, that the Hon'ble Member for Law and Justice is not in his place to hear these remarks?

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Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I am very sorry that he is not here.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—He ought to hear these remarks.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The absence of the Commander-in-Chief was noted in a higher Council.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The existence of rank corruption, as regards a few of our Magistrates, is very well known to the public, and, I am sure, even to the Government, who appear to be impotent 'because evidence of corruption is difficult to get'. What a confession of weakness the latter state of affairs is? In a small State like ours, where an efficient administrator can have his hand on the pulse of every public servant, to say that he is unable to put down corruption because he cannot collect sufficient evidence is nothing but a clear confession of utter weakness. (*Hear, hear.*) Has the Government lifted their little finger, if even the finger of the Government can be characterised as little, to ascertain the facts and collect the evidence? Have they not, in more than one instance, kept silent and acted in the line of least resistance, even after alleged corruption and worse was brought to their notice both by officials and non-officials? How many months is it since the District Magistrate reported, in very serious and condemning terms, against a particular Magistrate? Has anything worth the name been done in the matter? Is it not more than an year, since a Member asked certain questions in this House alleging the most serious matters against another Magistrate? And yet what came of it? Has the Government taken any action either to vindicate the Magistrate in question, or to punish him, if he is guilty? *Is an open allegation made in the Council, by a representative of the people, in such a vital matter to be treated in such light-hearted fashion?* The Magistrate may be absolutely innocent. I remember, Sir, a previous administration compelling a high-placed official to go to court for vindicating his efficiency, when that was called in question by a newspaper. Mind, his efficiency, not his *character*. I may remind you, Sir, of the Marconi scandal and the enquiry that followed and even of the back bay reclamation affair. There is no necessity to cite instances. Those were the days when surplus budget making mania to the exclusion of other vital matters had not set in. There are, Sir, other cases also, in which the public have had reason to suspect that there is something rotten in the criminal administration of the State. Nor are the Magistrates alone to blame in this matter, as I venture to think. There are two important matters to be mentioned here. First is the system of keeping on an officer on the same pay, not by any means a generous one, for years and years together and systematically turning down every legitimate claim

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of his for promotion. "Hope deferred sours the heart" as I would put it. A man finds that nothing better can be expected by him from the service and that he cannot meet the various and insistent demands on his purse by his scanty pay, and what is more natural than for that man, unless he is endowed with a very strong moral sense, to seek to make money by methods, that are not recognised as open to him, by law? I do not state this as a justification at all, but as a fact. The other matter, which I wish to say in this connection, is the system of recruitment to the lower judiciary that now generally obtains in the State. For a few years past, the system has prevailed of recruiting the veriest beginners for responsible offices, on very low pay. Registrar-Magistrates and clerk-promoted Magistrates have been freely appointed on very low pay indeed. The result, if this policy be persisted in, would be that, in a few years, the judicial services will become packed with men of moderate calibre or worse. This is a pernicious system of recruitment, and in the interests of the proper judicial administration of the State, direct recruitment from the Bar, of competent men, as Munsiffs and Magistrates, is absolutely necessary. That would also be the surest means of assuring the integrity and uprightness of the services. I am pressed for time and cannot now go into more details on this important matter. I shall conclude this part of my address by requesting the Government to consider the question of placing the judiciary of the State directly under the Chief Court as is the case in the Madras Presidency and Travancore. Every appointment of Magistrates and Munsiffs ought to be on the recommendation of the Chief Court, and the Chief Court should have power to deal with the subordinate judiciary as it thinks fit. I feel sure that such a course would, in all probability, stamp out corruption, and assure the efficiency and integrity of the services. I shall come back to this subject on another day and in another connection.

I fear I can only briefly refer here to some of the various other Departments. In the Medical Department, again, the same policy of drift is noticeable. The General Hospital, thanks, no doubt, to the energy of our able and experienced Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, has been considerably improved, and that is as it should be. But the mofussil hospitals, except perhaps the Trichur Civil Hospital, have been sadly neglected. The mofussil hospitals are given very scanty equipment, and are really starved for want of a decent supply of even the ordinary drugs. I came across recently of a case in a village, where, in a case of haemorrhage, the medical officer in charge could not give any timely help for want of the apparatus necessary to administer saline injection. Saline injection is the

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most modern treatment for Cholera and some other diseases, and the apparatus required is none too costly. A simple apparatus could be had by the expense of a few rupees, and yet such a vitally useful thing was not supplied to these hospitals. Instances like this, of the step-motherly treatment of the mofussil hospitals, could be multiplied. What really is the reason of such sad neglect? Again the surplus budget mania comes in as an explanation. This pernicious practice of hoarding up people's money without attending to their vital needs must go, Sir, before we get the wants of the people properly attended to. *Surplus money should be devoted to the amelioration of the condition of the suffering people, and not used to swell the income of bankers and others.* (Hear, hear.) How many villages do now exist, that have absolutely no facilities for medical relief?

The Public Works Department, again, does not evince any better policy or energy. A few spectacular buildings are put up every year, I suppose for the edification of the foreign visitor. But what else is done by way of meeting the needs of the public of the State? I am aware of the repeated and long-standing requests for the opening of inexpensive roads all met by the answer of "No money this year." I am reminded of the sad case of the inhabitants of three villages, amounting in all to more than fifteen thousand souls, clamouring for the last fifteen years for the opening of a small road, which has since been estimated by the Government itself to cost no more than a paltry six thousand rupees. That road is vitally necessary for the villages in question, and the Government has recognised that fact; and yet, every year there is this excuse of 'No money this year.'

President.—The Member's time is up.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I request you to kindly give me another five minutes. Otherwise, I shall sit down.

President.—Yes, you may go on.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Again there is the question of putting up a bund for the protection of the cultivators of another group of villages. A vast extent of paddy fields could be better and more safely cultivated if that bund were put up, and it is none too expensive to put up that bund. And yet the same policy of putting off things indefinitely is pursued there also. I could give scores of similar instances. It is a pity to see *that although we have the money* such vitally useful and progressive measures are not adopted by our Government. I shall come back to this matter also in another connection.

Then again in the matter of rural reconstruction and local self-government, the same policy of following the line of least resistence is being adopted. These affairs are the subject matter of solicitous attention on the part of all modern Govern-

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ments. But in Cochin, the Government seems to think that they have done ample in having introduced the institution of Village Panchayats. What is the earthly use of creating Panchayats and then leaving them to die of attrition? Village Panchayats and rural reconstruction should be the charge of a responsible and competent officer, and money spent for that will be money spent properly. Introduction of truly democratic institutions ought to be the endeavour of all progressive States so as to train the people for self-government. Good Government is no substitute for self-government, and all modern countries are steadily extending self-governing institutions to their people. The Government, it is hoped, will devote more attention to this all-important matter of local self-government and rural reconstruction. A full-time expert ought to be appointed, and far more funds devoted for the purpose.

Turning now to Forests and Tramway, one is confronted, again, with a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. The Special Finance Committee seems to have recommended the scraping of the Tramway. The Government, however, has made provision for it in this year's budget too. I am not prepared to agree with the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee in this matter. The Tramway should not be lightly scraped. Every endeavour ought to be made to work it on an economical basis. If the Government cannot work it satisfactorily, why not let it out to people, who are prepared to undertake the work? I am far from satisfied that our Forests are altogether spent, and that the Tramway could not be profitably worked. Alterations may have to be done, and the work carried on in a more profitable and economic manner. That would be far better than throwing away all the money invested in the Tramway by scraping the line and thereby reducing the materials to scrap iron and practical valuelessness. In the meantime let accounts be properly kept to show the real earnings.

A word about the Agricultural Department. We have an Agricultural Department, like other countries. But we are apparently considering that Department only as a luxury. Really and truly in an agricultural country like ours, that Department, in the fitness of things, ought to be the especial care of the Administration. An administrator happened to organise it, and his successors have just been allowing it to exist. A more step-motherly treated Department does not, to my knowledge, exist in this State. Just fancy appointing a staff of experimentors and other experts without giving them facilities and apparatus for carrying on their work. The administrator, who organised that Department, made provision for getting experts, who were accordingly got. Subsequent administrators

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thought evidently that it was none of their work to provide the necessary materials for the experts to work upon. This is only one little thing about the running of this all-important Department. I shall come back to this matter also on another day.

There are other heads of expenditure also that should receive more attention at the hands of the Government. But exigencies of time will not permit of my referring to them now. I shall take opportunities that may present themselves during the succeeding days to refer to them. I wanted to say a few words on things like our Education, our ferries and then some trouble about the fishing stakes and all that sort of thing. I shall take later opportunities for them. I have, however, to refer here to two matters that have been totally neglected by the Government. I refer to the Tanneries and the Potteries. The money invested by the Government and the public in the Tanneries is all but lost. The public was encouraged by the Government to invest freely in the Tanneries, and there is a moral responsibility at least on the part of the Government to see that they do not lose their money. The Government also has invested heavily in it, and yet we find the Government complacently allowing the whole thing to go to the dogs. Why not run it with Government help and under Government supervision and control, or, if that is found entirely out of the question, why not let it out on rent or even sell it? Why continue this rot? The Potteries, again, are totally neglected, and the Government are allowing it to lie idle without any apparent concern. If the Government cannot, or will not run it, rent it out, or even sell it. I am sure that the Potteries could be converted into a good Tile Factory at least.

I might here say a word about the Ernakulam-Cochin Ferry and the landing places on either side of it. The Ferry service, no doubt, is somewhat better now than what it was a few years ago; but it is far from what it ought to be. The boat service is often delayed and irregular. There is a canal office quite close to the ferry landing on either shore. Why cannot a responsible officer of the canal service check the arrivals and the departure of the boats? A little more attention, I am sure, will make the service much more efficient. The Cochin landing place, on the other hand, requires much more attention. The only thing decent there is the jetty. As soon as you step out of the jetty, you find yourself in something like a marsh, for the negotiation of which the contractors have kindly dropped a plank or two here and there. The ticket-selling office and the waiting accommodation for passengers are abominable. The first class passenger has a waiting room, a dingy little place, in which he is left to enjoy the company of heaps of empty tins, dirty lanterns, and sundry other odds and ends, and the flavour of sundry odours. Are we too poor to have a decent building put up there, as we have recently got put up at Ernakulam,

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though even the latter is not yet available, for some mysterious unknown reason, for public use ? The marsh outside the ticket office in Cochin may also be reclaimed. I suppose the latter piece of work may cost about ten rupees. Why not incur the expenditure and damn the consequences !

Sir, I have done. I have only to recapitulate in two words what I have already said. Do not lock up people's money when that could be used to their advantage. Do not starve the people out of their legitimate needs. Give the people more and more of self-governing institutions, and try and remove the inequalities that unfortunately exist in our State, as between man and man, and generally make our State more and more fit for its citizens to live in. Suppress with an iron hand the corruption which is creeping in our State, before it is too late. It is an insidious sneeking plague, which, once it takes root, is well nigh impossible to eradicate, as some States, to their cost, now find. Above all I say, stamp out corruption. Corruption is the vilest thing, that can come to any administration. Stamp that out, before it is too big to be stamped out. I know of another State where it has been the despair of successive administrators. It has spread so hopelessly. By all means let us drive corruption out of the State. Adopt as stern measures as you want, Sir. Progress is not calculated in terms of a State's bank balance, but by the contentment, prosperity and enlightenment of its citizens.

Mr. V. V. Ananthapadmanabha Ayyar.—Mr. President and the Hon'ble Members of the House,—

President.—You cannot thus address the Members. Please address the chair only.

Mr. V. V. Ananthapadmanabha Ayyar.—Thank you, Sir. I propose only to touch upon some of the wide and important aspects of the budget presented to us for your careful consideraton. In doing so, I shall take the major Departments one by one, and deal with them separately.

Land Revenue Department.

According to the Finance Member as well as the Finance Committee, we have now come to the end of the tether so far as Land Revenue is concerned, and, therefore, we are compelled to tap other resources for any increase of revenue on this head. I understand that we have in this State wide tracts of unregistered land fit for tea, coffee, cardamom and rubber plantations. I suggest the registry of such lands to private individuals, who are bona fide Cochinites, on fair and easy terms. By this means we shall be able to realise a substantial amount by way of ground value, and we are sure to get an annual increase of revenue by way of tax. Such a course would further solve, to a certain degree, the question of unemployment, which is engaging the attention of all civilized Governments at present.

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